RETRACTION

Cloned Shiga Toxin 2 B Subunit Induces Apoptosis in Ramos Burkitt's Lymphoma B Cells

Paola Marcato, George Mulvey, and Glen D. Armstrong

Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H7, Canada

Volume 70, no. 3, p. 1279–1286, 2002. Subsequent to the publication of this article, we discovered that additional preparations of cloned Shiga toxin 2 (Stx2) B subunit lacked apoptogenic activity in Ramos Burkitt's lymphoma B cells. After exhaustive biological and biochemical characterization, we discovered that the Stx2 B subunit preparations used in our study contained previously undetected Stx2 holotoxin. Since this contaminating Stx2 holotoxin was likely responsible for the apoptogenic activity we attributed to the Stx2 B subunit in this article, we retract the conclusion that the Stx2 B subunit, absent any A subunit activity, initiated apoptosis in Ramos cells. This new finding does not alter our conclusions related to the lack of apoptogenic activity in the Stx1 B subunit preparation or the protective effect of Z-VAD-fmk on protein biosynthesis in the Stx2 B subunit-treated Ramos cells.